

**NASS**

New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA TO MEASURE NEW ENGLAND TURKEY INDUSTRY

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2000 is 273 million head, the same as 1999. Here in New England, Massachusetts production was projected to increase from last year, Vermont and New Hampshire were expected to slightly decrease their number of birds raised from last year, and Connecticut production was projected to be the same as in 1999. The preliminary turkeys raised estimate was based on poult data collected from turkey hatcheries nationwide. A more complete and up-to-date count is taken when turkeys are about to be slaughtered each fall.

Approximately 500 New England turkey growers will be mailed a form in late October asking for information about turkeys raised in 2000. Growers who have not returned their form by November 1 will be called early to avoid conflict with the busy Thanksgiving production period. As with all surveys conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, individual information is kept strictly confidential and is even exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination to establish state and national estimates.

USDA's annual Fall Turkey Inquiry is the only chance to officially measure final turkey production in 2000. Along with flock sizes, other information is requested for mortality, weights, and average prices received. This effort is actually a census of all known turkey operations regardless of size. If you have not received a questionnaire as of November 1, please call 1-800-642-9571 so you can be counted in this annual census of your industry.

National survey results will be released in the *Turkeys* report from Washington, D.C. in mid-January, 2001. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. Statistics that are specific to the New England states will be reprinted in the January issue of the *Ag Review*. The monthly New England *Ag Review* report is available on the Internet, but complimentary copies are also mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, NH, and is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached through e-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov or at 1-800-642-9571. All national statistics and state-level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

For More Information Contact: Emily McAllister or Aubrey Davis at 1-800-642-9571.